

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**CHARLOTTE A COONLEY**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-08471-SWT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**ARCHER-DANIELS-MIDLAND CO**  
Employer

**OC: 05/22/11  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-2-a – Discharge

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated June 17, 2011, reference 01, that concluded she was discharged for work-connected misconduct. A telephone hearing was held on July 20, 2011. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. The claimant participated in the hearing. John DeJong participated in the hearing on behalf of the employer.

**ISSUE:**

Was the claimant discharged for work-connected misconduct?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The claimant worked full time for the employer as a maintenance technician from April 5, 1999, to May 18, 2011. She was informed and understood that under the employer's work rules, unauthorized taking of company property was grounds for termination.

On May 18, 2011, the claimant was caught with company tools and supplies in her bag that she intended to take out of the plant without permission. She admitted that she intended to take the items home to work on her car and had not sought or obtained permission.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The issue in this case is whether the claimant was discharged for work-connected misconduct as defined by the unemployment insurance law.

The unemployment insurance law disqualifies claimants discharged for work-connected misconduct. Iowa Code § 96.5-2-a. The rules define misconduct as (1) deliberate acts or omissions by a worker that materially breach the duties and obligations arising out of the contract of employment, (2) deliberate violations or disregard of standards of behavior that the employer has the right to expect of employees, or (3) carelessness or negligence of such degree of recurrence as to manifest equal culpability, wrongful intent or evil design. Mere inefficiency, unsatisfactory conduct, failure in good performance as the result of inability or

incapacity, inadvertencies or ordinary negligence in isolated instances, or good faith errors in judgment or discretion are not misconduct within the meaning of the statute. 871 IAC 24.32(1).

The claimant's violation of a known work rule was a willful and material breach of the duties and obligations to the employer and a substantial disregard of the standards of behavior the employer had the right to expect of the claimant. Work-connected misconduct as defined by the unemployment insurance law has been established in this case.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated June 17, 2011, reference 01, is affirmed. The claimant is disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits until she has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount, provided she is otherwise eligible.

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Steven A. Wise  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

saw/css